

FOREWORD

Unlike earlier and later legislatures of the State of Texas, the two which met while Texas was one of the Confederate States of America did not publish their journals. The volume here offered is the first in a series intended to remedy that omission. It comes as the fulfillment of a hope long deferred, for the Library and Historical Commission as far back as 1914 selected the journals for early publication. Had they appeared as contemplated, they would have been fourth among documentary works issued by the State Library; as it is, the present volume may be reckoned the Library's twenty-eighth.

Of the states of the Confederacy, eleven in number, only Texas, Arkansas, and Tennessee have not already printed their legislative journals for the war years. In the other states the journals of every session, or almost every session, were brought out contemporaneously, though in Alabama and South Carolina none appeared for the sessions of 1864. As might be expected, copies of these printed journals tend to be rare, so rare in some cases that their availability hardly differs from that of manuscripts. The volume in hand and its successors should make the Texas journals the most accessible of all.

The Ninth and Tenth Legislatures of the State of Texas held five sessions between November 4, 1861, and November 15, 1864. The general and special laws which they passed were published at the time as pamphlets and reprinted in H. P. N. Gammel, **The Laws of Texas, 1822-1897** (10 vols., 1898), V, [445]-854. Manuscript journals of both senate and house for each session survive in the State Archives except that the house journals of the regular session of the Ninth Legislature and the second extra session of the Ninth Legislature and the second extra session of the Tenth Legislature are missing, and the senate journal of the second of these sessions is incomplete. The Archivist hopes, now that the Archives have ended their wandering (one recalls that after being variously housed at the capitol they were moved within a dozen years from the capitol to the Highway Building to a Quonset hut at Camp Hubbard to their recently completed permanent home) and can be

brought under better control, that at least part of the missing material may turn up.

Legislative journals are, it must be confessed, likely to prove annoying to read because they contain many entries that are enigmatic and many that are trivial. Yet they are decidedly valuable, at times even indispensable, to the investigator. He relies upon them for record votes, for tracing the progress of laws enacted, for information of measures that failed, and for essential documents such as reports of committees and communications from the executive. Among matters considered by the Texas senate during the first winter of the war, and covered in the journal that follows, are the raising and supply of troops, election of two Confederate senators, creation of a military board, suspension of the laws enforcing the collection of debts, state finances, salt, scabious sheep, sedition, police of slaves, relief of railroad companies, and plans for an armored vessel to be called the **Sea King**.

Publication of the journals of the Ninth and Tenth Legislatures is expected to require a minimum of seven volumes and seven years. In the meantime a generally accurate description of the manuscript journals by W. S. Jenkins may be found in National Association of State Libraries, **Supplement Check List of Legislative Journals** (1943), or in the United States Library of Congress, **A Guide to the Microfilm Collection of Early State Records** (1950); and microfilm copies of them may be purchased from the Photoduplication Service of the Library of Congress.

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